

REMARKS

Claims 1-3 are now present in this application.

The specification and claims 1 and 2 have been amended, and claim 3 has been presented. Reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Rejection under 35 USC 112

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

It is respectfully submitted that the manner in which the various components are inclined should be clear from a review of the originally filed specification and drawings. In particular, the paragraph beginning on page 1, line 12, establishes that the cam and sinker of the prior art are mounted horizontally on the machine deck. The paragraph beginning on page 2, line 1, sets forth that the present application improves the design of the prior art, whereby the cam and sinker are mounted at an inclined angle instead of horizontally. It should therefore be clear that the cam and sinker are mounted relative to the machine deck. Irregardless, the specification and claims have been amended to more clearly set forth that the cam and sinker are mounted at an inclined angle relative to the machine deck. Certain additional changes have been made to the specification not in response to any objection or rejection made by the Examiner, but for grammatical correctness and to correct certain typographical errors.

With regard to the Examiner's objection to the phrase "horizontal," it is noted that this phrase should be clear and does not require a point of reference, as "horizontal" can be understood to be parallel to or in the plane of the horizon or a base line.

With regard to the relationship between the belly section, nose section, and throat section, the Examiner is correct that the throat section is between the nose and belly sections, and claim 1 has been revised accordingly. Support for these changes can be found on page 4, lines 12-20 of the originally filed specification, and in Fig. 2, for example.

With regard to claim 2, it is noted that this claim inadvertently includes the recitation of a separate dependent claim. This material has now been removed from claim 2, and presented as new claim 3.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter of the instant invention. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 USC 112, second paragraph rejection are respectfully requested.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicant gratefully acknowledges that the Examiner considers claims 1 and 2 to contain allowable subject matter. In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all claims should now fully be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion

Favorable reconsideration and an early Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited.

Because the additional prior art cited by the Examiner has been included merely to show the state of the prior art and has not been utilized to reject the claims, no further comments concerning these documents are considered necessary at this time.

Application No. 10/759,427
Amendment dated August 17, 2006
Reply to Office Action of May 17, 2006

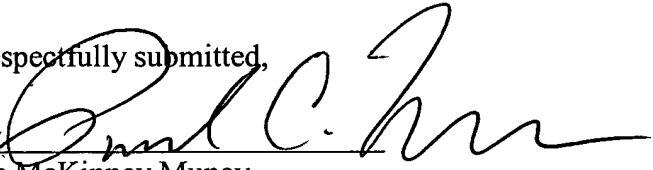
Docket No.: 2450-0629P

In the event that any outstanding matters remain in this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at (703) 205-8000 in the Washington, D.C. area.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: August 17, 2006

Respectfully submitted,

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